

**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for setting up and/or clearing a communications link, comprising:

setting up and/or clearing a communications link for transporting communication data which is carried out by at least one first functional unit in a communications network, the at least one first functional unit carrying out basic call functionality which is independent of a transport network; and

controlling ~~the~~ a connection function which is carried out by a second functional unit in the communications network, the second functional unit providing supplementary features and controlling connections between the at least one first functional units via signaling.

wherein the first and the second functional units are physically separated from one another.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:  
signaling to control the setting up and/or clearing of a communications link,  
wherein

the connection is set up and/or cleared via a transport network; and  
signaling is carried out via a control network.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, in which the signaling is controlled by a central device.

4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising setting up the communications link in the transport network via at least one decentralized device.

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the central device controls a decentralized switching device.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising setting up and/or clearing a communications link to a communications terminal, and setting up the connection via the transport network by producing at least one time slot control information item in the central device, which information item is used for setting up connections in the transport network.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, linking the time slot control information to transport-network-specific information and transmitting to a decentralized device.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein an asynchronous transmission method is used for transmission via the communications link.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising providing at least one connection-related service feature and/or a service feature or application, related to the central device by the central device.

10. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for setting up and/or clearing a communications link, comprising:

a transport network to provide a communications link;

a control network to control the setting up and/or clearing of the communications link; and

at least one unit to carry out basic call operations; and

a device to control the setting-up and/or clearing of connections in the transport network by a control network, to provide supplementary features, and to control connections between the at least one unit via signaling, wherein the device is arranged

such that it is physically ~~separately~~ separated from the transport network and the at least one unit.

11. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, in which the transport network has at least one decentralized device to connect with a communications terminal, and has a switching device in the region of the decentralized device to provide a communications link in the transport network.

12. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, in which the control network has a central device for control.

13. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 11, which has a central device to provide at least one connection-related service feature and/or a service feature or application relating to a central device, the device being operatively connected to the central device.

14. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, which is in the form of a private branch exchange and has at least two decentralized devices for connection of communications terminals.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein in the region of the decentralized device, there is a control device to provide a communications link in the region of this decentralized device, if the central control device is not available.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, in which the central device controls a decentralized switching device.

18. (Previously Presented) The arrangement as claimed in claim 11, which is in the form of a private branch exchange and has at least two decentralized devices for connection of communications terminals.

19. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for setting up and/or clearing a communications link, comprising:

a transport network to provide a communications link;

a control network to control the setting up and/or clearing of the communications link; and

a device to control the setting-up and/or clearing of connections in the transport network by a control network, to provide supplementary features, wherein the device is arranged such that it is physically separately separated from the transport network.

20. (Currently Amended) An arrangement for setting up and/or clearing a communications link, comprising:

a transport network to provide a communications link;

a control network to control the setting up and/or clearing of the communications link;

a device to control the setting-up and/or clearing of connections in the transport network by a control network,

wherein the device is arranged such that it is physically separately separated from the transport network, ~~wherein~~

the transport network has at least one decentralized device to connect with a communications terminal, and has a at least one switching device in the region of the at least one decentralized device to provide a communications link in the transport network and to provide basic call operations, and

the control network has a central device for control; and

a ~~central~~ device to provide at least one connection-related service feature and/or a service feature or application relating to a central device, to provide supplementary features, and to control connections between the at least one switching devices via signaling, the device being operatively connected to the central device.